



NATIONAL LONGHOUSE DRUM BEATS

THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER OF NATIVE SONS & DAUGHTERS PROGRAMS



Falling Leaves Moon
Binaakwe-giizis (Ojibwa)
October 2016

Welcome to the 10th edition of National Longhouse Drum Beats, the national newsletter of Native Sons & Daughters Programs. The purpose of this newsletter is to broadcast news and information, both fun and important, to the membership in all Longhouses across this great program of ours. Be proud in knowing that you belong to a growing program that is coast-to-coast across our great country.

From the Teepee of your National Chief

Big How! I am sure most Longhouse are busy with their fall campouts. This is a special time for parent and child to strengthen their bond with each other. I can remember driving and having some great conversations with my Daughters on the way to our camp outs. I hope that you take advantage of times like this and make some great memories.

I would like to welcome all of our new members that just joined this fall. I can promise you that you will not regret joining Native Sons and Daughters program. Take lots of pictures when you're at campouts and different outings. I go back from time to time and look at some of the pictures that I took with my daughters. It's amazing to see how small they were. I will sometimes look at them with my daughters and it's almost like recreating another great memory for them and me. They are also amazed at how much they have grown. When we are old and our kids are having their own families, we can always go look at those pictures.

Longhouse leadership, please plan to join us next year at our annual National Meeting. We will be holding our meeting the weekend of May 5th -7th 2017. I am working on a location and will share that with everyone in the next couple of months. I hope that all of your fall activities go well and wish you all a good holiday season as well.

"A truly rich man is one whose children run into his arms when his hands are empty"

Bryan "Big Wolf" Davis



NS&D National Chief
nationalchief@nationallonghouse.org

Highlights In This Issue

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- NLL 2017 Annual Meeting-Save the Date
- Joe Friday Award Recipients
- Great Lakes RAL News
- Community Service Reports
- Native American Lore-Thunderbirds
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Monument Valley, 2010 Gray Horse

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National Longhouse

National Council of Officers



These are your 2016-18 National Council of Officers.

These Great Chiefs have stepped up to fill these important national positions.



Name	Position	Email
Bryan "Big Wolf" Davis	National Chief	nationalchief@nationallonghouse.org
Michael "Wild Eagle" Ryan	Nat'l Assistant Chief	nationalassistant@nationallonghouse.org
Jay "Flying Eagle" Hader	Nat'l Wampum Bearer	nationalwampumbearer@nationallonghouse.org
Stuart "Chupacabra" Borie	Nat'l Talley Keeper	nationaltalleykeeper@nationallonghouse.org
Scott "Iron Wolf" Klueppel	Nat'l Web Spinner	nationalwebspinner@nationallonghouse.org
Don "Brave Eagle" Bittala	National Sachem	nationalsachem@nationallonghouse.org

Please feel free to contact them with matters that concern your Longhouse



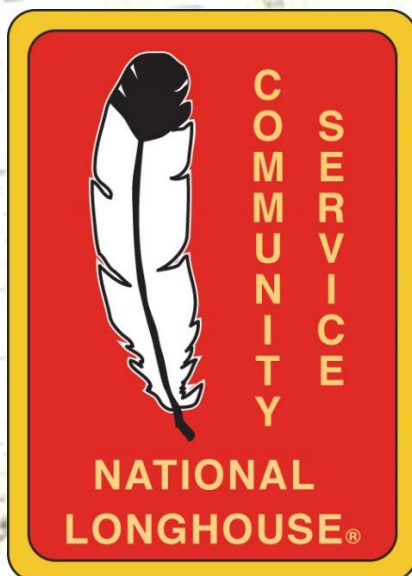
Left to Right: Michael Ryan, Stuart Borie, Bryan Davis, Jay Hader and Scott Klueppel

Visit the National Longhouse Website and Facebook Page

Check out the National Longhouse website for beneficial and interesting resources and information.

The site address is <http://www.nationallonghouse.org>

Find us on Facebook! Go to <https://www.facebook.com/nationallonghouse> and like our page to get frequent updates from National Longhouse and featured articles about our program's activity nationwide. One NLL site, there is also a "Find us on Facebook" image on our "Contact Us" page if you'd like to use that.



Community Service Project

The process for submitting reports and receiving awards has been changed and improved...

- Project reports can now be submitted at any time.
- Awards will be processed and distributed at that time.
- **NEW!! YEAR BARS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2ND YEAR (AND BEYOND) PARTICIPANTS. SEE THE EXAMPLES BELOW**

See the full brochure, project detail and reporting form at...

<http://www.nationallonghouse.org/community-service-project/>

National Longhouse invites all Longhouses and tribes to participate in this worthy program-wide project. We are certain that many Longhouses are performing various service works in their communities.

Report on your service works and be recognized!



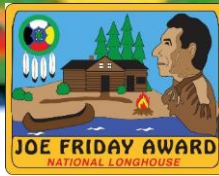
Longhouse & RAL Rep's

Save the Dates May 5th-7th, 2017

Plan to attend the 2017 NLL Annual Meeting

Location and Details Soon TBA





The National Longhouse Joe Friday Award

The Joe Friday Award, named after program co-founder and Ojibwa Indian Joe Friday, is the highest honor given by National Longhouse to a volunteer at any level of the organization. The award is given by nomination and committee acceptance only. The following have earned that distinct honor...



Article contributed by Tom Kundmueller, Cuyahoga Valley Longhouse Chief

June 4th, 2016, was a historic night for both National Longhouse as well as the Cuyahoga Valley Local Longhouse as two special members received the Joe Friday Award simultaneously. The unprecedented event took place at the Spring Camp event located at Camp Tippecanoe where Gary "Dancing Buckeye" Pitzer along with Shannon "Seven Cubs" Ritchie received the highest award of the National Longhouse.

Gary "Dancing Buckeye" Pitzer



Gary has had at least one child in the organization (not including Pathfinders) every single year for the previous twelve years. From his first day as a member of Cuyahoga Valley Longhouse all the way until that night of his youngest son Eric's graduation ceremony, Gary has always gone the extra mile to ensure that the Cuyahoga Valley Local Longhouse continued to stay strong and vibrant. Gary has demonstrated a true commitment to the program and he has been one of our greatest spokesmen. He has repeatedly been the first to volunteer and step up prior to being asked. He has held just about every officer position available over the years.

Shannon "Seven Cubs" Ritchie

Shannon guided seven children through our organization during his fifteen-plus years as a member. Shannon has served as the Longhouse Storyteller since May of 2007 and he has done an incredible job of consistently finding, creating, and telling great Indian Stories. For the previous nine years, Shannon has never let the children down and always kept everyone on the edge of their seat as he told his great Indian tales. He has been an incredibly active member of the organization, attending most events, usually with many of his children. He has been a great role model to all of the fathers in our organization by remaining active in our longhouse, and with each of his children, despite a very obviously busy home schedule. Shannon truly personified the idea that Cuyahoga Valley Native Sons and Daughters being for the children, and that our organization is all about "Creating Memories Together" with our children. Shannon has also been a great champion of our organization in our community.



Congratulations to both Gary and Shannon and thank you for all of your tireless efforts to help continue to build the strength of the Cuyahoga Valley Local Longhouse.

Welcome Western Reserve Longhouse

National Longhouse officially welcomes the Western Reserve Longhouse as the latest program to join the NSD family. Serving the areas of Cuyahoga Falls, Kent, Stow & Hudson in Northeast Ohio (Great Lakes Region), they bring a rich, long-standing program history with them and are excited to become part of NSD. Their officers are dedicated to building a great organization and they take great pride in knowing that the direction of their Longhouse is in their hands.

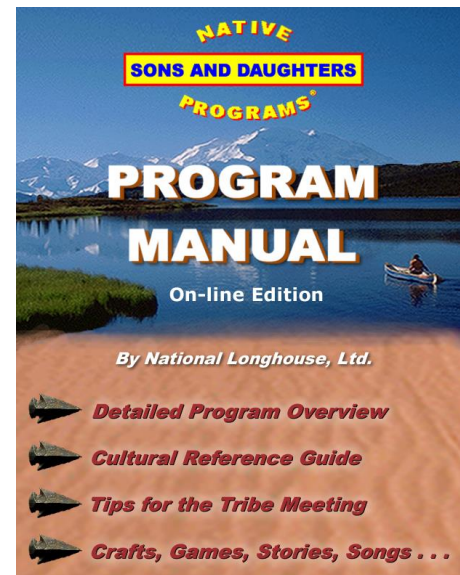
WELCOME!!

NSD PROGRAM MANUAL

Download it from the NSD website.

Click on the Program Manual tab.

A vast resource of helpful materials for all membership. Program history, National Longhouse structure, Tribes, Awards, Campouts, Native American Program Theme, Culture, Crafts, Games, Stories, Songs, etc. View and/or print as you like!



“Share the Stories, Spread the Spirit”

In the National Longhouse Drum Beats Newsletter
Does your Longhouse or Tribe have a great story to share? Share the news and pictures of your special events with all of Native Sons & Daughters membership.

Send your stories to:

NSDNewsletter@nationallonghouse.org



Great Lakes Regional Advisory Lodge

Representing the Longhouses of Ohio, Michigan & Indiana

Submitted by: Mike "Growling Bear" Ivan, GLRAL Chief

Cedar Point Amusement Park Event Review

The Great Lakes Regional Advisory Lodge created the first event open to all longhouses in the region in over 10 years. On Saturday July 30th over 50 members across 6 of the local longhouses of the Native Sons and Daughters program gathered at Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, Ohio for a day of fun. The adventure level varied across the families from those who spent much of the time on the kiddie rides to those who rode the record breaking roller coasters. Based on the feedback and pictures that I received, it looks like everyone had a great time. In addition, a commemorative GLRAL t-shirt listing all of the local longhouses on the back in concert t-shirt style was created and made available for purchase. Thanks to all that attended and helped organize the event. I'm looking forward to the next regional event.



(Above) Great Lakes Chief Mike "Growling Bear" Ivan with "Purring Kitty" and "Barking Dog"



GLRAL Contact Information

GLRAL Chief: Mike Ivan; 440-463-9659, michael_ivan@hotmail.com

GLRAL Assistant Chief: Aaron Olson; olsonsan@wowway.com



Great Lakes Regional Advisory Lodge Spring 2017 Regional Event Announcer

The Great Lakes Region is planning an event for all Local Longhouse of the region. The details are still being finalized, but we have secured the dates and wanted to send out an announcement so you can mark your calendars now. More details to come soon.



Save the Date Announcement

Friday April 21
Saturday April 22



Native Sons and Daughters
Great Lakes Regional Event 2017



Community Service



Timucuan and Great Sun Longhouses

Support Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation

Submitted by: Brian "Flaming Arrow" Quirk, Timucuan Longhouse Elder and FLRAL Chief

For more than a decade, members of the Timucuan Longhouse of Jacksonville have supported Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation to help raise awareness of childhood cancer. As part of the Native Sons and Daughters parent/child program, members and their children spread out throughout southern Duval County and northern St. Johns County to host 15 Lemonade Stands at various Publix Supermarket locations. Event organizer, Mike "Wild Eagle" Ryan states, "Each of us is blessed with the ultimate gift of a child from the Great Spirit. One of our own princesses is a survivor of this wicked disease".



As in previous years, our sister chapter, The Great Sun Nation out of Boca Raton joined in the fight to find a cure for childhood cancer. This year, together the two groups raised just shy of \$10,000 for the Foundation. One of the core building blocks of the Native Sons and Daughters program is showing our children how we support the communities we live in. The entire essence of our

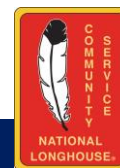
program is for fathers to spend quality time with our sons and daughters building life-long memories.



To see and read Alex's story and the research being conducted to find a cure for this form of childhood cancer, please visit Alex's website at <https://www.alexslimonade.org/>



Community Service



Crooked River Longhouse

Supports Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation

Submitted by: Matt "Skylander" Rebraca, Crooked River Events Chief

For the second year in a row the longhouse supported Alex's Lemonade Stand to help raise money and awareness of childhood cancer. PLEASE...PLEASE...PLEASE...take the time to meet Alexandra "Alex" Scott and be prepared to be inspired by a remarkable person.

<http://www.alexslimonade.org/about/meet-alex>

<http://www.alexslimonade.org/about/meet-alex/interview>

On Saturday July 9th we held our 2nd annual Alex's Lemonade Stand. This year's location was Gibbs Butcher Block in Olmsted Falls from 12-4pm. The times coincided with their weekend sausage tastings, which drew its typical LARGE crowd. What better way to enjoy the afternoon then being in the sun, listening to music, tasting gourmet sausage and washing it down with some fresh HAND squeezed Lemonade,



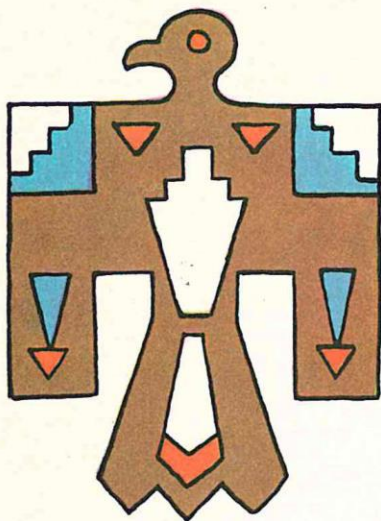
carnival style! Chief Sage Wolf set the tone for the day by leading us through a test run. We learned that two stations would work best, one for the squeezing, another for the filling and a shake...shake...shake...

One happy patron and one donation at a time would be the rule of the day. Those that did taste the best lemonade this side of the I-71 were eager to donate to the cause. Even those that didn't enjoy a glass of lemonade were inspired to donate. In fact, our highest donation of the day was made by a women who just wanted to help!!! Angry Bird (Ajay Rebraca) set our fundraising goal for the day, \$300!

We had decorated a poster the night before. The poster showed our goal and listed our donors. As the day progressed the kids were excited to watch as we closed in our goal. So were the patrons, and each was asked to sign or contribute to our poster. By the end of the day we had a beautiful poster to represent the good our Longhouse had done, AND we BEAT our goal! We raised \$317 at the lemonade stand but after adding in online donations and a generous last minute donation, we sent the foundation a check for \$400!!! That's right members we raised \$400 towards fighting childhood cancer and we did it rather easily. Just think of all the good we could do when we join forces and take on a cause. I have to admit that at one point, I felt like we should have been on an episode of Dirty Jobs! Making lemonade is a STICKY business... Lesson learned; bring a bucket of soapy water to wash hands and/or shakers. Please consider participating next year. It is a fun way to fight an awful disease. God Bless!!!



THUNDERBIRD DESIGNS



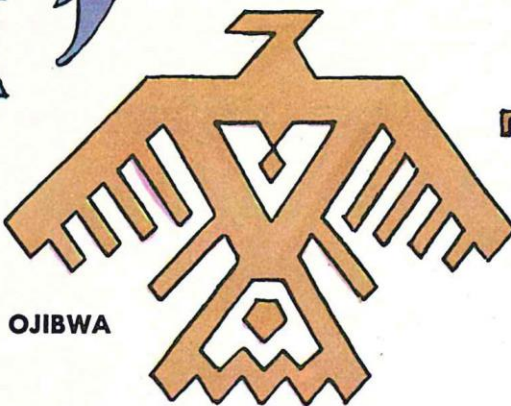
PUEBLO



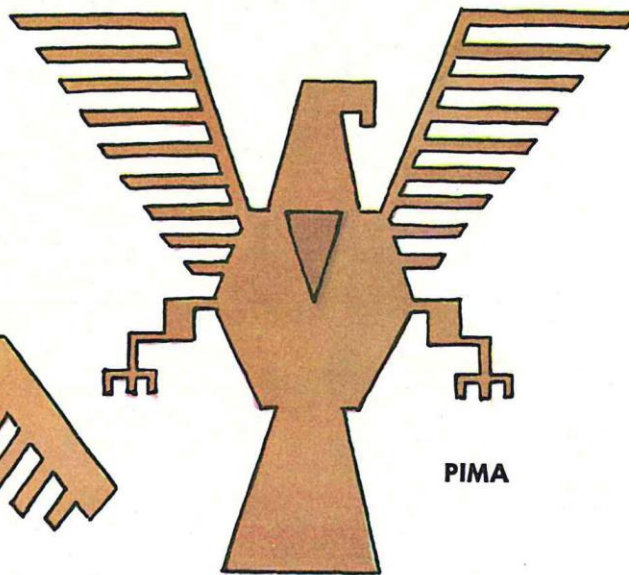
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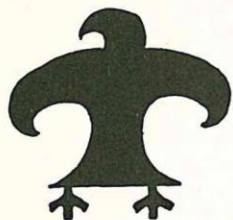
ZUNI KNIFE WING MAN
(OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR A BIRD)



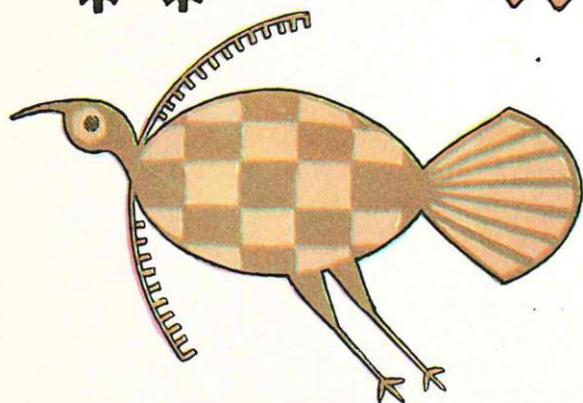
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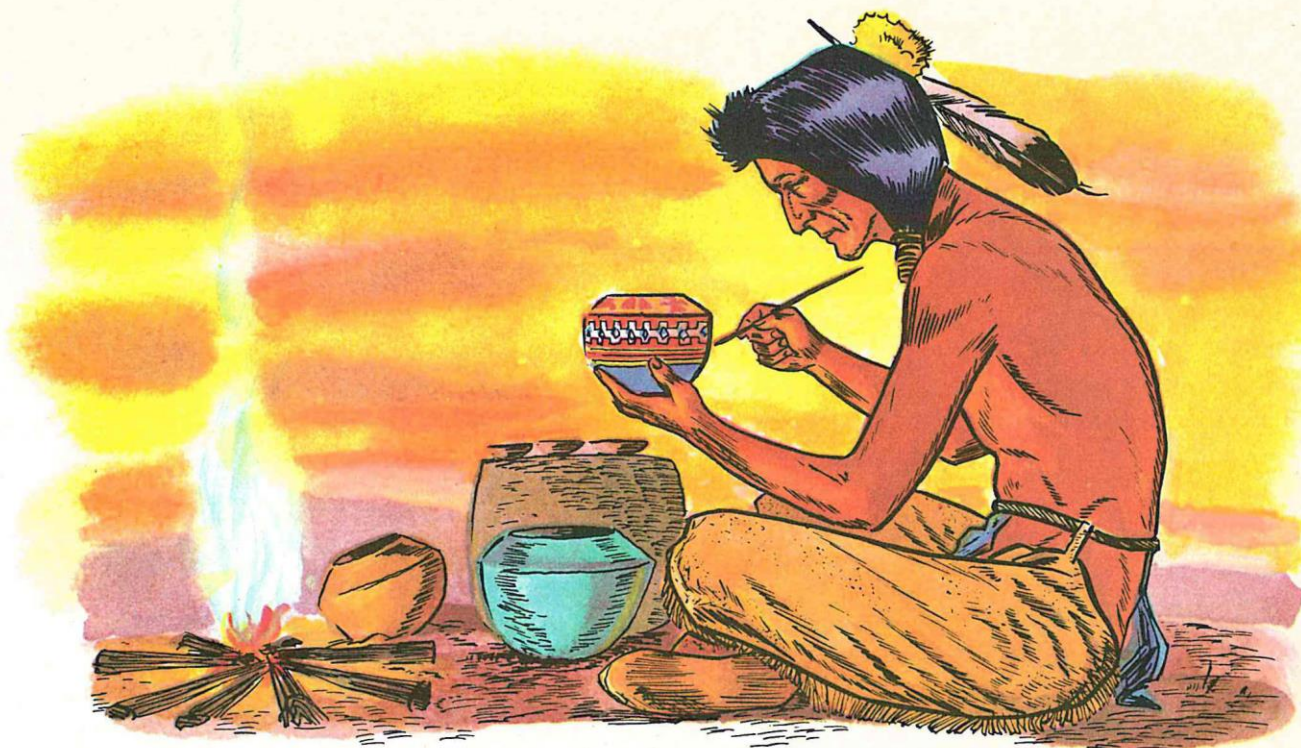
SOUTHWEST



ZIA RAIN BIRD



ACOMA



THE mythical Thunderbird, in one form or another, was held in awe by practically all of the Indian tribes. On the Great Plains, where the phenomena of thunderstorms was very strik-

ing, the Thunderbird was supposed to be a deity in the form of a bird of enormous size, which produced thunder by flapping its wings, and lightning by opening and closing its eyes. These great birds were thought to carry a lake of fresh water on their backs, which caused a great downpour when they flew through the air.

Tribes of the Pacific Coast thought the Thunderbird caught whales during a thunderstorm and used its wings as a bow to shoot arrows. Each tribe interpreted the bird differently in its art, as shown on these two pages. The design of the Thunderbird was used to decorate war drums, pottery, and walls and was supposed to protect individuals and tribes from the Evil Spirits.

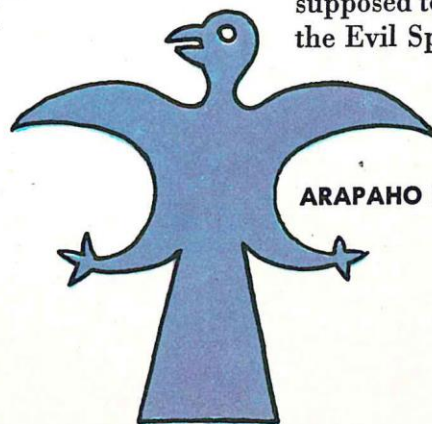


NORTHWEST

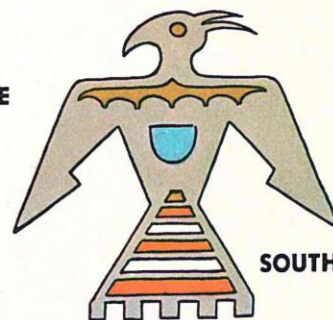
COAST



MAGPIE



ARAPAHO EAGLE



SOUTHWEST

Longhouse Special Events

Two Feathers Longhouse

Duct Tape Festival – Space Shuttle Float Wins Award

Submitted by: Scott Schraff

Two Feathers Longhouse (2FL) started building modest floats for the Duct Tape Festival in 2004 as a way to promote the longhouse and NS&D. As we steadily improved at creating fun and entertaining floats, the floats started placing in, and winning, the best float contest in the parade. According to John Kahl, CEO of Shurtech Brands, the maker of Duct Tape brand duct tape, and lead sponsor of the festival: "Two Feathers has become one of the most popular floats to watch for in the parade, which now draws tens of thousands of spectators". So given this, the float has annually become a major creative mission for 2FL. This time lapse YouTube video captures the enthusiasm and fun of the month-long 2016 float build <https://youtu.be/-Bv18yQCsjU> (copy & paste into your browser, or visit the Two Feathers Avon channel on YouTube).



The theme of the June 18th, 2016 parade was Celebrating American Pride. Brainstorming on that theme, we settled on the American Space Program as our float theme, featuring a scale model of the Space Shuttle. The kids were invited to dress up as astronauts for the parade, using paint suits with Duct Tape trim & decals we made. The Float Build Team Leader was first year member John Gorski, owner of Aerowave, Inc., a welding fabrication company. John generously donated his leadership, design and welding talent, as well as the use of his shop for over a month. The float came together allowing 2FL to reach a new level of excellence.

The results: With perfect weather and a big crowd, the float was a big hit! Many of our members marched with the float, and all had a GREAT time, as the crowd applauded, and the kids shouted out the countdown to firing the shuttle engines. We also handed out 600 flyers, which are invitations to our recruiting rally in September.

Our float nearly won the best float award, placing 2nd in a field of 23 entries. This marked the 4th consecutive year that 2FL floats placed either 1st or 2nd. The cash prize for 2nd place was \$750. Our float and families also appeared on the Today Show, as part of a feature on the festival <http://www.today.com/video/duct-tape-festival-is-a-sticky-situation-for-lilliana-vazquez-712076355761>. A fitting finish to the story is that a local business bought the float from 2FL so it could be displayed locally.



We are very grateful for:

- 2FL Co-Chiefs, Reed Allen and Walt McMahon, for their leadership and guidance.
- 2FL officers, most of whom are first year officers, who invested crucial time and enthusiasm.
- 2FL members, more than half of whom are in their first year, for great contributions, can-do spirit, perseverance down the stretch, and trust in the mission.

Longhouse Special Events

Naranja Longhouse: Camp Pendelton

Submitted by: Michael Willems

Each Spring, the Naranja Longhouse heads down to the shores of Camp Pendleton in Oceanside, CA, for this annual campout and the passing of the torch from the current Chief of Chief's to the New Chief of Chief's. Our honored tradition is to raise money for both the 1st Battalion Marines and Sempa Fi. It is a great campout, where the Marines and the girls get to interact for the day, building Sand Castles, Climbing on Marine Equipment, like Troop Carriers and Humvee's.

The highlight of the day is when the Marines run the girls and the incoming Chief's through an obstacle course. I am not sure who has more fun the girls or the Marines. A great time is had by all. The evening is topped off with our Graduation Ceremony where the headdress is pasted to the new Chief.



We are truly blessed to have had one of the Injured Marines from Sempa Fi open the Ceremony and let the girls know how the donations go to help injured Marines through the United States.



Longhouse Special Events

Great Sun Longhouse: Ice Skating and Museum of Science Events

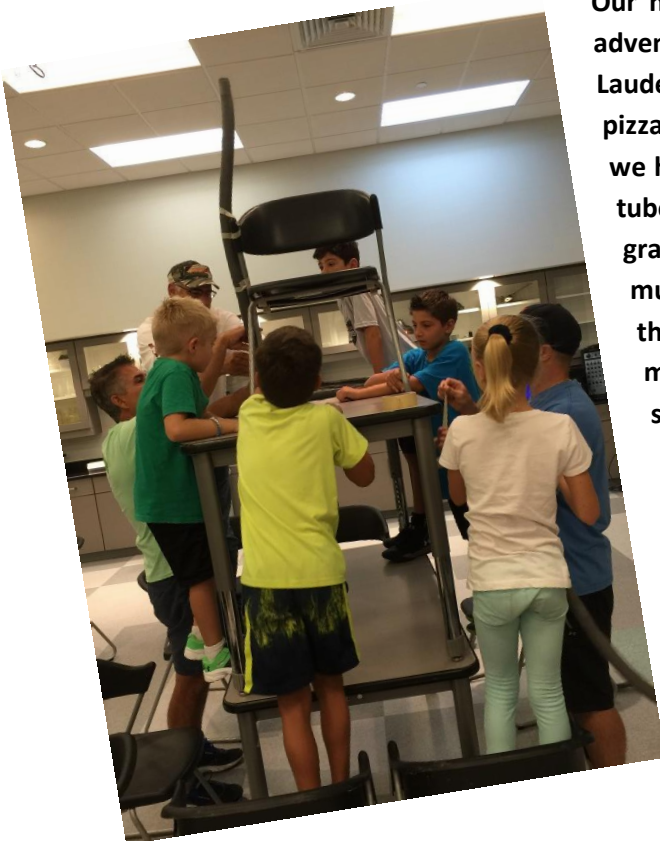
Submitted by: Stuart "Chupacabra" Borie, Nation Chief

To escape the Florida heat, The Great Sun Nation (GSN) kicked off its 2016/17 season on August 20th with 139 dads and kids taking over the Florida Panthers practice facility for its 1st ever Ice Skating party. We had some kids and dads with amazing skills and a whole lot who didn't have any skills. Where is a kid in Florida going to go ice skating? This was a recruitment event and 30 new people attended. Everyone had a blast and we actually got to wear long pants and sweatshirts.



Our next event on September 10th was an overnight adventure at the Museum of Science and Discovery in Ft. Lauderdale. We had over 130 participants. There was a pizza dinner awaiting us when we got there. After dinner we had a lab where we created roller coasters out of foam tubes and marbles. The object was to show the effect of gravity and have tons of fun. I think the dads had as much fun as the kids. After the lab, we had free run of the museum and all of its hands on exhibits. At midnight they shut off the lights, but that didn't seem to slow the kids down.

The GSN is about to start its camping season with a trip to a natural spring in October and Ft. Wilderness (Disney) in November. Looking forward to telling you all about those events.



Longhouse Special Events

Western Reserve Longhouse: Camp Fitch Weekend

Submitted by: JJ Sutphin, Longhouse Wampum Bearer

The Western Reserve Native Daughters held their annual Fall Campout at Camp Fitch in N. Springfield, PA in September. Camp Fitch is the highlight of the year for the group and this year we had over 175 happy campers! (Despite a bit of rain). Our Fall Ceremonial Fire was held at Fitch's new "Friendship Circle". The ceremony thanks the GREAT SPIRIT for blessing us with our friends and families and recognizes our retiring Daughters and welcomes in our newest members.



The group also enjoyed hiking, horseback riding, target shooting and playing in Lake Erie. Besides a little rain a great time was had by all!



Longhouse Special Events

Orange Blossom Longhouse: Camp Marston/Graduation Event

Submitted by: Larry "Snake Legs" Lukanish, Nation Chief, Navajo Tribe

Orange Blossom Native Nation Graduation, May 2016

Orange Blossom Native Nation ("OBNN") consisting of five tribes in South Irvine, California had a memorable graduation ceremony at Camp Marston in Julian, California. Julian is a historic mining town located in the back country of San Diego about two hours south east of Irvine. OBNN has been having our graduation ceremony for our fourth grade girls at Camp Marston for over a decade.

The Camp offers fun activities from panning for gold to lassoing a steer head to climbing a 60 foot climbing wall. My daughter, Baby Bunny, can be found on the "GaGa" court from sunrise to sundown. On Saturday morning, I found her going into the tribe's first aid kit and wrapping each of her knuckles on her right hand with band aides. I asked her how she hurt her hand and she said "I didn't but am getting ready to play GaGa."

The graduation ceremony is the highlight of the weekend and is always held on Saturday night. The five tribe chiefs and medicine men help set up the camp amphitheater for the graduation with tiki torches, flashing lights, individual twelve foot tribe



feather flags, and A/V equipment. The one snag with set up was the nations smoke machine was broken, which was going to put a damper on the graduation theatrics. However, the Great Spirit of all Spirits was looking out for our nation and an ominous fog bank rolled in minutes before the ceremony started. Over ninety big braves and princess funneled into the amphitheater. On stage, we graduated 25 big braves and daughters. Our graduation consists of an emotional ceremony where the braves and princesses paint tears on each other and end up reciting The Six Aims.

We conclude the ceremony by honoring the big braves and princesses that attended all nine of our nation events during the year. The honor of the White Buffalo is attained by only a few committed families each year and this year three graduating families achieved this award!

Longhouse Special Events

Crooked River Longhouse: Summer Parade Season

Submitted by: Matt "Skylander" Rebraca, Crooked River Events Chief

NUNWAY!! The 2016 Parade Season has officially ended. As usual we marched in four parades, from mid-June into early August, in Middleburgh Hts., Berea, Strongsville and Olmsted Falls, all westside suburbs of Cleveland, Ohio. All of them went on without a hitch! A lot of great things happened during the season. Starting with our younger tribes stepping up to chair these events, Pawnee, Ojibwa, Seminole and Yuma. Each tribe chief acted as event chair and coordinated efforts with the longhouse Events Chief and Sean Callaghan, our Assistant Membership Chief. Sean continues to be the linchpin to our parades success. Year after year he gathers things up from storage at the start of the parade season and shows up to pretty much every parade ready to tow our float using his own equipment. He's also instrumental in getting the Teepee up and secure! And he makes sure our marchers are safe throughout the parade route and while dispersing at the end.



We want to thank our Chiefs and sachem's who continually show up to these parades and wear their regalia and sweat and sweat and sweat some more. I made sure to point out to my four year old who was complaining of heat, that while we may be hot, others are even hotter. Sorry to say he didn't have much sympathy but he was a trooper and got through it, even if he took some breaks and rode on my shoulders. And THANKS to those that spoke up at our Longhouse meetings and suggested making our float and appearances at these parades more festive. We heard you and we responded. We are trying to portray some of the events/themes of our longhouse. We kicked it up a notch starting at Strongsville and then took it a step further at Olmsted Falls. One of the themes being camping. We have resurrected a fake fire that was in storage and we had it in front of the teepee. Flanking it was a grill rack with a large pot on it and some sandwich irons. We also had a foam cooler to help set the scene for our campout. On the sides of the float we fastened fishing poles, sleeping bags, a backpack and more! We can always add things like ice skates, roller skates, skis, etc. for next year. Keep bringing the ideas, I hear you!!!



Finally, thank you to all the BOYS & GIRLS who came out and supported these parades!!! You made a lot of grown-ups smile along the way. And your enthusiasm, behavior and acts of kindness help to draw in more members. You made Chief Skylander very proud this season and I look forward to seeing and marching with you again next year. Kumathum!

Longhouse Special Events

Orange Spirit Longhouse: Skate Party and Mock Campout Recruiting Events

Submitted by: Nation Greeter Chris "Howling Wolf" Kramer

The Orange Spirit Nation, serving the Tustin and Irvine areas of Orange County, California, hosts two recruiting events each year, one in late summer, and one right after the kids are back in school. We find that getting an early start on the year by hosting a summer event works particularly well.

This year, our annual skate party drew over 150 people. Held on a Sunday in late August from 11:00 to 1:00, this event is hosted by the nation, and all family members are welcome, including moms. In addition, prospective members and their families are encouraged to attend. We have found that including, and in fact targeting moms in our recruiting efforts is very effective. Each family was asked to bring a few cans or boxes of food, and as a result, we were able to donate several hundred pounds of food to the



Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County. This is a low cost, fun event that gives our families the chance to reconnect before the

official year starts in September, gives everyone a chance to meet each other's entire family, and helps to build our community at the start of the year, and give something back at the same time. This was just our second year hosting this event, but you can be sure it will stay on our nation calendar for good.

Three weeks later on September 9th, we hosted our annual kickoff event, a mock campout at Lake Oso in Rancho Santa Margarita. This event is designed to enable prospective new members to "test drive" a campout without committing to an entire weekend. At Lake Oso, we do everything we normally do on a campout except spend the night. This year, food was provided by the nation, but each tribe was on its own for smores!!! As the photo indicates, we introduced our entire nation council at the campfire. We have found that this event is a great way for new and prospective



members to get to know each other just as the new year is beginning, and for prospective members to experience the tribe and nation camaraderie first hand before they join. OSN currently has 335 members in 7 tribes, and we still don't have all of our returning members or prospects signed up. Under the leadership of Nation Chief Scott "Laughing Fox" Fedewa, it looks like we are off to another great year.

Longhouse Special Events

Timucuan Longhouse: Summer of 16 Events

Submitted by: Brian "Flaming Arrow" Quirk, Timucuan Longhouse Elder and FLRAL Chief

The leadership of the Timucuan Longhouse of Jacksonville served up a wide variety of exciting events over the summer that allows the children to stay connected with one another. First up was the ever popular Ray Potts Summer Bowling event. In this event, the son or daughter bowls the first ball with the father bowling cleanup. The top 6 scores are averaged and categorical winners are determined. This is a great way to wind down the weekend, get out of the heat and the kids love it.



The next event was organized by Todd "Iron Star" Janes. The sons and daughters were the special guests of the Jacksonville Sharks. They were escorted down to the playing field and were lined up at the 50 yard line as the



National Anthem

was sung. For most, dads included, this was the first time they had been on the field for a professional sporting event. The officers of the Timucuan Longhouse want to send out a huge shout out to Iron Star for putting this event together.

We were barely into August when members of the club headed west to participate in the Annual Suwannee River overnight canoe float. We launch from the Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park (in Live Oak, FL) and spend the entire day on the water. Multiple stops are taken so the children can swim in the springs, eat lunch on the river bank or rest up after participating in splashing each other's canoes. Once we reach the

midway point, we unload the canoes and make camp so the dads can get the grills warmed up to feed a ravenous bunch of canoers. A special shout out to Eric Friday for organizing this much anticipated event each year.

Finally, members of the organization attended their first Jacksonville Armada Soccer match held at the Baseball grounds of Jacksonville. Again, for many in the club, this was the first time they had attended a professional soccer match and excitement could be seen on everyone's faces. Great Elder Mike "Crazy Wolf" Morando was instrumental in bringing this additional opportunity to the attention of the membership and we are extremely grateful to Mike.



As any reader can ascertain, the Timucuan Longhouse is an exciting group of fathers who seek to spend exceptional quality time with their children. As the program teaches all of us, "You only have 18 summers to make a difference in your child's life". We accomplish this one outing at a time.

Program Support

The Great Eagle Feather Award Program

Presented By: Brian "Flaming Arrow" Quirk



A New Tribe Chiefs ask me all the time, "What can I do to add excitement to our tribal meetings?" I respond to them the same way I do to New Tribe Sponsors as well. Schedule a quick meeting with the Big Braves only and explain to them the Great Eagle Feather Award Program.

I realize that the number of patches on the older member's vests can be intimidating to a first year tribe. The Eagle Feather Award program is a great way to begin to adorn your vest. The program has been established to provide new tribes a way to organize 17 separate joint activities that upon completion, a different "feather" is awarded to the Big Brave and child.

Some examples: A feather can be earned when the brave or princess can recite all of their tribemates Native names. Another can be earned when a piece of tribal property has been completed (tribal drum, tribal banner, and tribal totem). To aid in recruitment, a feather can be earned by having a new member register for the program. To encourage participation, a feather can be earned when the brave or princess has attended three Nation events. When a Big Brave serves as a tribal officer, their child earns a specific feather for that. Giving back to our local community is a tribal virtue and when you participate in any form of Community Service, there is a specific feather for that as well.

As you can see, multiple activities count towards earning each of the 17 feathers awarded in the program. This program is an excellent way to organize planned outings, meetings, craft building and overall bonding within the tribe. There are no rules as to the sequencing of earning the feathers so pick a feather, energize the tribe and make a big deal about earning each of them.

Once the tribe members have earned all the feathers, we alert the Nation Chief and he presents the ceremonial Eagle Feather patch at the Spring Longhouse in front of the entire Nation. Only ones acting skills limit the theatrics of this very special recognition of our children.

The Great Eagle Feather Award Program is available at The Patch Store <http://www.thepatchstore.com>

Find Past Issues of National Longhouse Drum Beats:

<http://nationallonghouse.org/> - use the Nat'l Drum Beats tab

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